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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/560,689	04/04/2007	Kwok Ying Chow	7439-75540/PJP	1942

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EXAMINER

LE, TUNG X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2821

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/14/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/560,689	Applicant(s) CHOW ET AL.	
	Examiner TUNG X. LE	Art Unit 2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the Applicants' communication filed on April 4, 2007. In virtue of this communication, claims 1-9 are currently presented in the instant application.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. The claims 1-9 are objected to because they include reference characters which are not enclosed within parentheses.

Reference characters corresponding to elements recited in the detailed description of the drawings and used in conjunction with the recitation of the same element or group of elements in the claims should be enclosed within parentheses so as to avoid confusion with other numbers or characters which may appear in the claims. See MPEP § 608.01(m).

3. Claims 3-4 and 9 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 3, line 2, "DC+ and DC-" should be deleted;

Claim 3, line 2, "the DC+" should be changed to --the positive interface--;

Claim 3, line 3, "the resistor" should be changed to --a resistor--;

Claim 3, line 3, "the diode" should be changed to --a diode--;

Claim 4, line 3, "resistor" should be changed to --a resistor--;

Claim 9, line 2, "unit" should be changed to --element--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masters (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,105).

With respect to claim 1, Masters discloses in figure 1 an electroluminescent element driving apparatus including a power supply [22, 24], a controlling IC [U1], an electroluminescent element driving unit [Q1], an electroluminescent cell [30, 30a] comprised of an electroluminescent element [EL lamp] is characterized by that the power supply is connected with a charging unit [14] which supplies power to the power supply, the power supply continually stores electric power while it supplies the power to the controlling IC and the electroluminescent element driving unit, respectively, (see column 2 in lines 59-67 and column 3 in lines 1-16) the controlling IC supplies a flash (having a flash mode, see column 5 in line 1) to at least one electroluminescent element driving unit, the electroluminescent element driving unit transmits a signal (having a flashing signal [PO] to control the switch/driver [Q1] for regulating the EL lamp) having

Art Unit: 2821

the flash to the electroluminescent cell, and the electroluminescent cell displays the signal having the flash (see figure 1).

With respect to claim 2, Masters discloses that the apparatus further comprises characterized by that the said charging unit is connected with a power supplying unit (having a battery with a voltage range of [2V-6.5V]).

With respect to claim 3, Masters discloses that the apparatus further comprises characterized by that the said charging unit has exterior interface pins (having positive and negative interface pins directly connected at the power supply unit[2V-6.5V], the positive interface pin is connected to a resistor [R1] which is connected to the positive electrode of a diode [20], while the negative electrode of the diode is connected to the positive electrode of the power supply; the negative interface pin is connected to the negative electrode of the power supply (see figure 1).

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shin (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0041823 A1).

With respect to claim 1, Shin discloses in figures 1-2 an electroluminescent element driving apparatus including a power supply [Vdd], a controlling IC [400], an electroluminescent element driving unit [M2], an electroluminescent cell [OLED] comprised of an electroluminescent element (having a diode disposed therein) is characterized by that the power supply is connected with a charging unit [Cst] which supplies power to the power supply, the power supply continually stores electric power while it supplies the power to the controlling IC and the electroluminescent element driving unit, respectively, (see paragraphs [0077-0078]) the controlling IC supplies a

Art Unit: 2821

flash (see paragraph [0081]) to at least one electroluminescent element driving unit, the electroluminescent element driving unit transmits a signal (having a flashing signal control the switch/driver [M2] for regulating the OLED) having the flash to the electroluminescent cell, and the electroluminescent cell displays the signal having the flash (see figures 1-2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masters (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,105) in view of Albert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,825,829 B1).

With respect to claim 7, Masters discloses all of the claimed limitations, as expressly recited in claims 1-2, except for specifying that the apparatus further comprises a solar energy supply unit connected therewith.

Albert discloses in figure 2 a display device comprising a battery/ a solar supply [18] for supplying a power to the display device (see column 10 in lines 35-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to modify the power supply unit of Masters by adding a solar supply unit connected therewith for the purpose of sparing a backup energy storage for

Art Unit: 2821

supplying the lighting device since this configuration for the stated purpose would have deemed obvious to a person skilled in the art.

With respect to claim 8, the combination of Masters and Albert disclose that the apparatus further comprises characterized by that the solar energy power supply unit can be composed by a series of solar cells (see figure 2 and column 10 in lines 35-40 of Albert).

9. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masters (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,105).

With respect to claim 9, Masters discloses all of the claimed limitations, as expressly recited in claim 1, except for specifying that the luminescent element can be connected to the electroluminescent unit with a connector. However, this difference is not of patentable merits since the electroluminescent element is a part of the electroluminescent unit connected via a socket/connector. Thus, a connector connected between the lighting element and the lighting unit would have been deemed obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Brownell (U.S. Patent No. 5,293,098) discloses power supply for electroluminescent lamps.

Prior art Kawakami (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0025157 A1) discloses electronic flash, electronic camera and light emitting head.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUNG X. LE whose telephone number is (571)272-6010. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas Owens can be reached on 571-272-1662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TXL 10/02/2009

/David Hung Vu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2821